## Letter of Intent Meeting Environmental Responsibilities For the DOE's Remaining Groundwater Clean-up Activities At the Young – Rainey STAR Center

## **Purpose**

The Letter of Intent documents a commitment by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to accelerate, to the extent practicable, risk reduction and cleanup of the remaining groundwater contamination at the DOE's former Pinellas Plant, now the Young – Rainey STAR Center, in Largo, Florida. Accelerating clean up will, in turn, allow the current property owner, the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners, to continue its highly successful conversion of this former nuclear weapons production facility to an economically viable manufacturing and research facility. Therefore, the undersigned commit to accelerating completion of active remedial activities, and implementation of long-term environmental stewardship at the Young – Rainey STAR Center by the end of 2010, and possibly as early as the end of 2007, from the currently scheduled date of 2014.

## Vision

Our vision is to expedite the remaining cleanup activities at the Young – Rainey STAR Center by focusing on accelerated risk reduction, commensurate with site land use, through the use of innovative technologies, employing innovative contractual mechanisms, and sequencing cleanup activities to address highest risks first.

## **Key Commitments to Ensure Success**

- 1. FDEP and DOE agree to take, to the extent practicable, all necessary steps to ensure that the remaining active cleanup activities are completed by the end of 2010 and possibly as early as the end of 2007 pending future land use decisions. At that time the program will be transferred to the DOE's Long-Term Stewardship Program for post closure monitoring and site closeout as needed.
- 2. DOE and FDEP will cooperatively work together to further refine future use scenarios and associated cleanup standards, including the identification of any needed institutional controls. Accordingly, DOE and FDEP will explore moving the current site cleanup program from the FDEP's groundwater cleanup program to the FDEP's Brownfields Program, which is more consistent with the current and planned use of the facility by the current landowner.
- 3. DOE and the FDEP recognize the need to aggressively pursue and implement, where practicable, innovative clean-up approaches that are protective of the environment and the public, designed to achieve demonstrable risk reduction at a reasonable cost, which could even further reduce the currently projected clean-up timeframes. Innovative cleanup techniques, such as bio-sparging utilizing horizontal wells and source reduction for Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids (NAPLs) utilizing Steam Enhanced Extraction and Electrical Resistive Heating, have already been or are soon to be employed in an effort to further reduce cleanup time frames which were originally established based on the conventional use of clean-up technologies such as pump-and-treat. Enhanced Bioremediation, Monitored Natural Attenuation (MNA), and chemical oxidation are

- other cleanup scenarios that will be thoroughly evaluated for possible use at the site where appropriate.
- 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Letter of Intent, DOE and its contractors will continue to ensure that all of their activities remain compliant with applicable state and federal statutes and regulations, and are protective of human health and the environment. Accelerated completion of cleanup and risk reduction will, to the extent practicable, be the primary focus of the program's activities.
- 5. DOE and FDEP will continue to use regular meetings to provide information exchange and resolve any issues that may hinder timely action on regulatory submittals, permits, etc. in order to ensure the smooth execution of accelerated cleanup.
- 6. DOE and FDEP will continue its long-standing constructive, cooperative partnership to ensure that both DOE and FDEP goals and objectives are met through expedited cleanup of activities where possible. The DOE will continue to proactively submit to FDEP high quality, appropriately focused document submittals. In return, the FDEP commits to continue to provide timely review and comment on all applicable regulatory documents.
- 7. DOE and FDEP will work cooperatively to ensure that their respective stakeholders are appropriately involved in providing advice and recommendations regarding ongoing cleanup activities.
- 8. DOE and FDEP recognize the need to develop a long-term stewardship program for the site, to be an integral element in the overall commitment to environmental excellence. Such a program would include items such as land use controls, monitoring and operation/maintenance of groundwater treatment systems. Accordingly, the DOE will develop by the end of 2010, in cooperation with its stakeholders, a Long-Term Environmental Stewardship plan for the site. This plan will outline the remaining activities needed such as any required ongoing monitoring, provide appropriate schedules, etc. to ensure that the remaining long-term activities are completed in a proper and timely manner which would then allow the FDEP to close out sites when no further action is required.
- 9. The commitments in this document are made within the existing statutory and regulatory framework and do not alter the statutory and regulatory authorities the agencies currently have over the remaining groundwater cleanup activities at the site.
- 10. DOE will develop a Performance Management Plan by the end of August 2002. The plan will include actions, milestones, responsibilities, funding and schedules necessary to achieve the agreements made in this letter. Both DOE and FDEP recognize that an annual federally authorized funding appropriation, commensurate with the approved performance plan, is necessary to achieve the goal of acceleration and closure. FDEP will review the performance plan to assure that the plan adequately addresses the proposed actions and that funding, schedules, etc. are sufficient to fully achieve the goals of this Letter of Intent.

We, the undersigned, representing our respective organizations, are committed to work together to achieve, to the extent practicable, an accelerated completion of the remaining groundwater clean-up activities at the Young – Rainey STAR Center and agree to the above commitments to support this important goal. We also agree to seek and adopt additional opportunities that may

further advance the clean-up mission in a safe, protective cost-effective manner. This Letter of Intent is intended only to emphasize the mutual desires of the FDEP and DOE to accelerate risk reduction and cleanup of the remaining groundwater contamination at the DOE's former Pinellas Plant and is not intended to, nor does it create any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity against either FDEP or DOE, or against their officers or any other Federal or state entity or any other person.

John M. Ruddell

Director

Division of Waste Management

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Warren E. Bergholz

Acting Manager

Idaho Operations Office U.S. Department of Energy

Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management U.S. Department of Energy

Kessie Hill Roberson

Donna Bergman-Tabbert

Manager

Grand Junction Office U.S. Department of Energy